

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAJ-01 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

EB-11 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 CIEP-02 SPC-03

STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 PM-07 NSC-10

SS-20 L-03 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DRC-01 /155 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4880

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY RUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 29814

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, FR, EEC

SUBJECT: VIEWS OF FRENCH OFFICIAL ON EC SUMMIT MEETING

1. IN A CONVERSATION NOVEMBER 16 WITH CEA CHAIRMAN STEIN, KATZ OF RPE, AND ECON MIN, BERNARD, DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE ELYSEE, EXPLAINED SOME OF THE THINKING BEHIND PRESIDENT POMPIDOU'S RECENT CALL FOR REGULAR EC SUMMIT MEETINGS. BERNARD SAID THAT THE BASIC CONSIDERATION UNDERLYING THIS MOVE WAS A STRONG DESIRE BY THE GOF TO ACHIEVE POLITICAL COORDINATION WITH FRANCE'S EC PARTNERS OUTSIDE OF EXISTING COMMUNITY ORGANS. BERNARD SAID THAT EXISTING ORGANS WERE NOT EFFECTIVE FOR THIS PURPOSE NOR WERE SUMMIT MEETINGS, SUCH AS THE ONE HELD IN PARIS IN OCTOBER 1972, CHARACTERIZED BY ELABORATE PREPARATIONS

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AND LARGE NUMBERS OF PARTICIPANTS. THUS, POMPIDOU, WITHOUT

ABANDONING EXISTING ORGANS, WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING NEW. HIS THOUGHT WAS THAT IF THE MEN WHO HAD ULTIMATE AUTHORITY IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES COULD MEET ALONE WITHOUT AN AGENDA OR POSITION PAPERS, THEY MIGHT BE ABLE TO REACH THE KIND OF AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL POLICY ISSUES WHICH HAD ELUDED THE COMMUNITY IN THE PAST. MOREOVER, MEETINGS OF THIS KIND WOULD GNEERATE PUBLIC EXPECTATION OF POSITIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND THIS WOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO PRODUCE RESULTS.

2. BERNARD ADMITTED THAT THE GERMAN AND FRENCH APPROACHES TO THE QUESTION OF PRODUCTING A UNIFIED COMMUNITY VIEW DIFFERED, THE GERMANS FAVORING INCREASING INTEGRATION, THE FRENCH FAVORING HARMONIZATION OR COORDINATION OF NATIONAL VIEWS. BUT HE SAID THAT THIS DIFFERENCE WAS LESS IMPORTANT THAN THE COMMON DESIRE, AT LEAST ON THE PART OF HEATH, BRANDT AND POMPIDOU, TO ACT.

3. BERNARD WAS ASKED WHAT CONSIDERATIONS HAD IMPELLED POMPIDOU TO MAKE POLITICAL COORDINATION OF THE NINE A MATTER OF URGENCY. HE REPLIED THAT IT WAS IN PART A FEAR THAT SOMETHING HAD TO BE DONE TO PREVENT THE EASTWARD DRIFT OF WILLY BRANDT'S GERMANY. ANOTHER FACTOR WAS REACTION GENERATED DURING THE MIDDLE EAST CRISIS AGAINST WHAT JOBERT HAD CALLED U.S./USSR "CONDOMINIUM." BUT BERNARD SAID THERE WERE MORE IMPORTANT FACTORS. AMONG THEM WAS POMIDOU'S FEELING THAT FRANCE WAS NOT PLAYING THE KIND OF ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS WHICH IT HAD PLAYED UNDER GENERAL DE GAULLE AND HIS CONVICTION THAT ONLY BY WORKING THROUGH EUROPE COULD FRANCE PLAY SUCH A ROLE. ANOTHER FACTOR WAS POMPIDOU'S BELIEF THAT THE WORLD WAS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DANGEROUS AND THAT ONLY A EUROPE WHICH SPOKE WITH ONE VOICE HAD ANY HOPE OF BEING HEARD. BREZHNEV WAS REASONABLY PACIFIC, BUT WHO WOULD COME AFTER HIM? WHAT KIND OF USSR WOULD WE BE FACING TEN TO FIFTEEN YEARS FROM NOW? BERNARD CONCEDED THAT WHAT LAY AT THE END OF THE ROAD THE EUROPEANS WERE SETTING OUT ON WAS A COMMON EUROPEAN DEFENSE. HOWEVER, THIS WAS A TERRIBLY DIFFICULT THING TO BRING ABOUT, PRINCIPALLY BECAUSE OF THE GERMAN PROBLEM. BEFORE THE EUROPEANS COULD EVEN THINK ABOUT A COMMON DEFENSE, THEY HAD TO SEE IF THEY COULD REACH AGREEMENT ON A COMMON FOREIGN POLICY.

4. BERNARD CONCEDED KATZ'S POINT THAT THE REAL MEANING OF
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POMPIDOU'S INITIATIVE WAS THAT THE EC WAS SHIFTING ITS FOCUS FROM THE ECONOMIC TO THE POLITICAL ARENA, EVEN THOUGH THE PROCESS OF ECONOMIC INTEGRATION WOULD CONTINUE. WHAT HE WAS TRYING TO ACHIEVE WAS NOTHING LESS THAN A COMMON EUROPEAN FOREIGN POLICY. BERNARD WAS NOT SURE POMPIDOU COULD BRING THIS OFF. HE WAS NOT SURE THAT THE FRENCH PUBLIC WAS READY NOR WAS HE SURE THAT THERE WAS ENOUGH TIME. THE PROCESS WAS ONE WHICH REALLY NEEDED 50 YEARS TO ACCOMPLISH, BUT THE FRENCH ESTIMATED THAT THEY HAD

ONLY TEN OR FIFTEEN YEARS. NONETHELESS, THEY WERE DETERMINED
TO MAKE THE ATTEMPT.
IRWIN

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